

In the United States Court of Federal Claims
OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS

RONALD CRODDICK,

*

No. 23-558V

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Petitioner,

*

Special Master Christian J. Moran

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v.

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Filed: April 3, 2025

SECRETARY OF HEALTH
AND HUMAN SERVICES,

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Respondent.

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Koby Jack Kirkland, Law Office of Koby Kirkland, LLC, Mobile, AL, for
Petitioner;

Julianna Rose Kober, United States Dep't of Justice, Washington, DC, for
Respondent.

UNPUBLISHED DECISION¹

On April 2, 2025, the parties filed a joint stipulation concerning the petition for compensation filed by Ronald Croddick on April 20, 2023. Petitioner alleged that the influenza (“flu”) vaccine he received on September 22, 2021, which is contained in the Vaccine Injury Table (the “Table”), 42 C.F.R. §100.3(a), caused Mr. Croddick to suffer from a Table injury of Guillain-Barré Syndrome (“GBS”), or in the alternative that the flu vaccine caused him to develop GBS, or caused an aggravation of preexisting demyelinating symptoms, and that he experienced

¹ Because this Decision contains a reasoned explanation for the action taken in this case, it must be made publicly accessible and will be posted on the United States Court of Federal Claims' website, and/or at <https://www.govinfo.gov/app/collection/uscourts/national/cofc>, in accordance with the E-Government Act of 2002. 44 U.S.C. § 3501 note (2018) (Federal Management and Promotion of Electronic Government Services). This means the Decision will be available to anyone with access to the internet. In accordance with Vaccine Rule 18(b), the parties have 14 days to identify and move to redact medical or other information, the disclosure of which would constitute an unwarranted invasion of privacy. Any changes will appear in the document posted on the website.

residual effects of this condition for more than six months. Petitioner represents that there has been no prior award or settlement of a civil action for damages on Mr. Croddick's behalf as a result of Mr. Croddick's condition.

Respondent denies that Mr. Croddick suffered a GBS Table injury; denies that the flu vaccination caused or significantly aggravated Mr. Croddick's alleged GBS, or any other injury or condition; and denies that Mr. Croddick's current condition is a sequela of a vaccine-related injury. Nevertheless, the parties agree to the joint stipulation, attached hereto. The undersigned finds said stipulation reasonable and adopts it as the decision of the Court in awarding damages, on the terms set forth therein.

Damages awarded in that stipulation include:

A lump sum of \$88,000.00 to be paid through an ACH deposit to petitioner's counsel's IOLTA account for prompt disbursement to petitioner.

This amount represents compensation for all damages that would be available under 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(a).

In the absence of a motion for review filed pursuant to RCFC, Appendix B, the clerk is directed to enter judgment according to this decision and the attached stipulation.²

IT IS SO ORDERED.

s/Christian J. Moran
Christian J. Moran
Special Master

² Pursuant to Vaccine Rule 11(a), the parties can expedite entry of judgment by each party filing a notice renouncing the right to seek review by a United States Court of Federal Claims judge.

**IN THE UNITED STATES COURT OF FEDERAL CLAIMS
OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS**

RONALD CRODDICK,

Petitioner,

v.

SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES,

Respondent.

No. 23-558V
Special Master Moran
ECF

STIPULATION

The parties hereby stipulate to the following matters:

1. Petitioner filed a petition for vaccine compensation under the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program, 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-10 to 34 (the “Vaccine Program”). The petition seeks compensation for injuries allegedly related to petitioner’s receipt of the influenza (“flu”) vaccine, which vaccine is contained in the Vaccine Injury Table (the “Table”), 42 C.F.R.

§ 100.3(a).

2. Petitioner received the flu vaccination on or about September 22, 2021.¹

3. The vaccine was administered within the United States.

4. Petitioner alleges that he suffered Guillain-Barre Syndrome (“GBS”) within the time period set forth in the Table, or in the alternative that the flu vaccine caused him to develop GBS,

¹ On July 29, 2021, petitioner also received a COVID-19 vaccine. Vaccines against COVID-19 are not contained in the Vaccine Injury Table. See 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-14 and 42 C.F.R. § 100.3(a). Pursuant to the declaration issued by the Secretary of Health and Human Services under the Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness Act (42 U.S.C. §§ 247d-6d, 247d-6e), claims for alleged injuries from COVID-19 countermeasures, including vaccines, may be compensable under the Countermeasures Injury Compensation Program (“CICP”). See 85 Fed. Reg. 15198, 15202 (March 17, 2020).

or caused an aggravation of preexisting demyelinating symptoms, and that he experienced the residual effects of this condition for more than six months.

5. Petitioner represents that there has been no prior award or settlement of a civil action for damages as a result of his condition.

6. Respondent denies that petitioner suffered a GBS Table injury; denies that the flu vaccination caused or significantly aggravated petitioner's alleged GBS, or any other injury or condition; and denies that petitioner's current condition is a sequela of a vaccine-related injury.

7. Maintaining their above-stated positions, the parties nevertheless now agree that the issues between them shall be settled and that a decision should be entered awarding the compensation described in paragraph 8 of this Stipulation.

8. As soon as practicable after an entry of judgment reflecting a decision consistent with the terms of this Stipulation, and after petitioner has filed an election to receive compensation pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-21(a)(1), the Secretary of Health and Human Services will issue the following vaccine compensation payments:

A lump sum payment of **\$88,000.00** to be paid through an ACH deposit to petitioner's counsel's IOLTA account for prompt disbursement to petitioner. This amount represents compensation for all damages that would be available under 42 U.S.C. §300aa-15(a).

9. As soon as practicable after the entry of judgment on entitlement in this case, and after petitioner has filed both a proper and timely election to receive compensation pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-21 (a)(1), and an application, the parties will submit to further proceedings before the special master to award reasonable attorneys' fees and costs incurred in proceeding upon this petition.

10. Petitioner and his attorney represent that they have identified to respondent all known sources of payment for items or services for which the Program is not primarily liable

under 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(g), including State compensation programs, insurance policies, Federal or State health benefits programs (other than Title XIX of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. § 1396 et seq.)), or by entities that provide health services on a pre-paid basis.

11. Payment made pursuant to paragraph 8 of this Stipulation, and any amount awarded pursuant to paragraph 9, will be made in accordance with 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(i), subject to the availability of sufficient statutory funds.

12. The parties and their attorneys further agree and stipulate that, except for any award for attorney's fees and litigation costs, and past unreimbursable expenses, the money provided pursuant to this Stipulation will be used solely for the benefit of petitioner as contemplated by a strict construction of 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(a) and (d), and subject to the conditions of 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(g) and (h).

13. In return for the payments described in paragraphs 8 and 9, petitioner, in petitioner's individual capacity, and on behalf of petitioner's heirs, executors, administrators, successors or assigns, (a) does forever irrevocably and unconditionally release, acquit, and discharge the United States and the Secretary of Health and Human Services from any and all actions or causes of action (including agreements, judgments, claims, damages, loss of services, expenses, and all demands of whatever kind or nature) that have been brought, could have been brought, or hereafter could be timely brought in the Court of Federal Claims, under the Vaccine Injury Compensation Program, 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-10 et seq., (i) on account of, or in any way growing out of, any and all known or unknown, suspected or unsuspected personal injuries to or death of petitioner resulting from, or that may be alleged to have resulted from, the vaccinations administered on September 22, 2021, and July 29, 2021, and (ii) that petitioner has had, now has, or hereafter may have with respect to the injury that gave rise to the petition for vaccine

compensation filed on or about April 20, 2023, in the United States Court of Federal Claims as petition No. 23-558V; and (b) waives any and all rights to any compensation that may be available under the Countermeasures Injury Compensation Program (CICP), 42 U.S.C. § 247d-6e (or an action under 42 U.S.C. § 247d6d(d)), for a claim alleging that a covered countermeasure, including the COVID-19 vaccination administered on or about July 29, 2021, on its own or in combination with the flu vaccination administered on September 22, 2021, caused or seriously aggravated the injuries that were the subject of the petition for vaccine compensation filed on or about April 20, 2023, in the United States Court of Federal Claims as petition 23-558V, including a significant aggravation of GBS, for which petitioner will receive compensation pursuant to this Stipulation. If petitioner has such a claim currently pending with the CICP, petitioner hereby withdraws such claim for compensation in the CICP.² If no claim for compensation has been filed in the CICP as of the date this Stipulation is filed, petitioner waives the right to file a claim as described in this paragraph for compensation in the CICP.

14. If petitioner should die prior to entry of judgment, this agreement shall be voidable upon proper notice to the Court on behalf of either or both of the parties.

15. If the special master fails to issue a decision in complete conformity with the terms of this Stipulation or if the Court of Federal Claims fails to enter judgment in conformity with a decision that is in complete conformity with the terms of this Stipulation, then the parties' settlement and this Stipulation shall be voidable at the sole discretion of either party.

16. This Stipulation expresses a full and complete negotiated settlement of liability and damages claimed under the National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986, as amended, except

² After entry of judgment reflecting a decision consistent with the terms of this Stipulation, petitioner agrees that respondent will send this Stipulation to the CICP as evidence of petitioner's withdrawal of their CICP claim and waiver of any potential compensation under the CICP.

as otherwise noted in paragraph 9 above. There is absolutely no agreement on the part of the parties hereto to make any payment or do any act or thing other than is herein expressly stated and clearly agreed to. The parties further agree and understand that the award described in this Stipulation may reflect a compromise of the parties' respective positions as to liability and/or amount of damages and further, that a change in the nature of the injury or condition or in the items of compensation sought, is not grounds to modify or revise this agreement.

17. This Stipulation shall not be construed as an admission by the United States or the Secretary of Health and Human Services that the flu vaccine caused or significantly aggravated petitioner's alleged GBS, or any other injury or condition, or that petitioner suffered a Vaccine Table injury.

18. All rights and obligations of petitioner hereunder shall apply equally to petitioner's heirs, executors, administrators, successors, and/or assigns.

END OF STIPULATION


[illegible]

Respectfully submitted,


PETITIONER:


RONALD CRODDICK

**ATTORNEY OF RECORD FOR
PETITIONER:**


KOBY KIRKLAND
The Law Office of Koby Kirkland, LLC
~~1059 Dauphin Street~~ 50 St. Emanuel
~~Mobile, AL 36604~~ Mobile, AL 36602
(251) 210-9158
koby@kobykirklandlaw.com



**AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL:**


HEATHER L. PEARLMAN
Deputy Director
Torts Branch
Civil Division
U.S. Department of Justice
P.O. Box 146
Benjamin Franklin Station
Washington, DC 20044-0146

**AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH
AND HUMAN SERVICES:**

Jeffrey S. Beach -S
Beach -S
Digitally signed by
Jeffrey S. Beach -S
Date: 2025.03.18
10:33:13 -04'00' for
CAPT GEORGE REED GRIMES, MD, MPH
Director, Division of Injury
Compensation Programs
Health Systems Bureau
Health Resources and Services
Administration
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
5600 Fishers Lane, 08W-25A
Rockville, MD 20857

**ATTORNEY OF RECORD FOR
RESPONDENT:**



JULIANNA R. KOBER
Trial Attorney
Torts Branch
Civil Division
U.S. Department of Justice
P.O. Box 146
Benjamin Franklin Station
Washington, DC 20044-0146
(202) 742-6375
Julianna.R.Kober@usdoj.gov

Dated: 04/02/2025